

Senate Resolution 601

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Goggans of the 7th, Hawkins of the 49th, Moody of the 56th, Thomas of the 54th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross and recognizing March, 2009, as American Red
2 Cross Month at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross plays a vital humanitarian role in Georgia by
4 empowering tens of thousands of caring citizens known as "Hometown Heroes" to make a
5 difference each day by giving of their time, talent, money, and blood to help ease and prevent
6 human suffering, and to save lives in our state, the nation, and the world; and

7 WHEREAS, the Red Cross, though not a government agency itself, is a valued partner that
8 collaborates with Georgia's emergency planning community to respond to disasters of all
9 types; and

10 WHEREAS, last year, through a state-wide network of 22 chapters, the Red Cross provided
11 food, clothing, shelter, first aid, health care, and counseling to more than 5,700 Georgia
12 families following 3,000 local disasters; and

13 WHEREAS, the Red Cross brought compassionate relief to thousands of our neighbors
14 following three devastating tornado outbreaks in the spring of 2008; and

15 WHEREAS, last year alone, Red Cross Blood Services collected 329,300 units of blood,
16 including red blood cells and platelets, from Georgia blood donors, who in turn may have
17 helped save more than 922,400 lives through their selfless generosity; and

18 WHEREAS, last year, Red Cross training in programs in such areas as first aid, CPR, use of
19 an AED, and water safety gave more than 146,700 Georgia citizens the confidence and skills
20 they need to respond to life-threatening emergencies; and

21 WHEREAS, as part of its humanitarian mission, the Red Cross provides the only worldwide
22 communications link between service members and their loved ones, and last year, the Red
23 Cross helped 15,800 of Georgia's military families send emergency messages, get financial

24 assistance, find counseling, and get referrals, and briefed 98,400 family members on services
25 available to them; and

26 WHEREAS, preparedness is a vital part of the Red Cross mission, and the Red Cross, in
27 partnership with state and local agencies, is helping Georgia's families become safer,
28 healthier, and better prepared for the unexpected, whether natural disasters, manmade threats,
29 or health emergencies such as a pandemic flu outbreak; and

30 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body recognize and celebrate the contributions of Georgia's
31 Hometown Heroes, Red Cross volunteers, donors, partners, and employees, including those
32 visiting the capitol on March 18, 2009.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize March, 2009, as American Red Cross Month at the state capitol and commend the
35 outstanding humanitarian aid provided by this organization and its proud heritage of service.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the American Red Cross.